

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) announces CSU partnership***

Dwayne Romero, Executive Director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT), announced today that Colorado State University (CSU) will join OEDIT in providing additional support through the statewide CSU Extension network for the Governor's Bottom-Up Economic Development Plan. Multiple statewide entities are already partnering with OEDIT for this initiative, including Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) and Colorado Municipal League (CML).

"We are excited to have Colorado State University join us in charting a course for economic revival in Colorado," Governor Hickenlooper said. "Our top priority is jobs. That is why we created a Bottom-Up Economic Development plan to help boost and support business throughout our state. We look forward to working with CSU and our other partners in this effort."

As Dwayne Romero pointed out, "CSU serves 59 Colorado counties with a trusted, impartial network we can use to assist us in identifying the economic development priorities of each individual county."

Kathay Rennels, Assistant Vice President of the Office of Community and Economic Development at CSU and longtime Larimer County commissioner, will work with the OEDIT staff and provide directional support for all CSU efforts in the project.

"Governor Hickenlooper is calling on Extension and CSU to help garner as much local input as possible into the state's economic development planning process," Rennels said. "CSU has a network of experts in almost every county who are connected to community and regional needs and able to serve as neutral facilitators in bringing state and local interests together."

"We applaud the Governor and his Economic Development team for taking this extra step to make sure they're gathering local input using the most effective tools available," Colorado State President Tony Frank said. "CSU is proud of the statewide network we've built up through Extension to serve local needs, and we're glad to help deploy this network for this critical state priority."

Additional Information can be found at [www.advancecolorado.com](http://www.advancecolorado.com).